

Claims

1. – 33. (canceled)

34. (currently amended) ~~A receiver,~~ In a receiver, a method comprising:
detecting a descriptor within data transmitted by a transmitter;
~~monitoring reception characteristics and statistics, to select~~ selecting between
conventional and robust channels ~~within the transmitted data to reliably receive data, wherein~~
relative to data of the conventional channel, data of the robust channel have a higher level of
robustness to transmission errors;
obtaining ~~data transmission~~ rate information and identifying a corresponding set of buffer
parameters from the descriptor;
configuring memory resources and flow control logic to provide elementary stream
acquisition according to guidelines embodied by the identified set of buffer parameters
~~associated with the selected transmission channel;~~ and
buffering the ~~received~~ data of the selected channel until a buffer contains more than an
initial buffer fullness value ~~included within the buffer parameters~~ of the data of the selected
channel.

35. (currently amended) The ~~receiver~~ method of claim 34, ~~additionally further~~
comprising ~~instructions for~~ reconfiguring the memory resources and the flow control logic upon
receipt of a new descriptor ~~having updated data.~~

36. – 38. (canceled)

39. (currently amended) A receiver, comprising:
means for detecting a descriptor within transmitted data;
means for deciding, ~~by monitoring reception characteristics and statistics,~~ which of
conventional and robust channels ~~within the transmitted data~~ to select ~~to reliably receive audio,~~
~~video and data elementary streams,~~ wherein relative to data of the conventional channel, data of
the robust channel have a higher level of robustness to transmission errors;

means for determining a ~~data transmission~~ rate and for identifying a corresponding set of buffer parameters from the descriptor;

means for configuring memory resources and flow control logic to provide elementary stream acquisition according to guidelines embodied by the identified set of buffer parameters ~~associated with the selected transmission channel~~; and

means for decoding the ~~transmitted~~ data of the selected channel when a buffer contains greater than an initial buffer fullness value ~~found within the buffer parameters~~ of the data of the selected channel.

40. (currently amended) The receiver of claim 39, wherein the means for configuring memory resources and flow control logic reconfigures the buffer upon receipt of a new descriptor ~~having updated data~~.

41. (canceled)

42. (canceled)

43. (new) The method of claim 34, further comprising monitoring reception characteristics and statistics for use in the selecting.

44. (new) The method of claim 43, wherein the monitoring includes monitoring symbol rate for the conventional channel and symbol rate for the robust channel.

45. (new) The method of claim 43, wherein the monitoring includes monitoring one or more of signal-to-noise ratio, carrier-to-noise ratio, average signal energy, and peak signal energy of the transmitted data, and wherein the transmitted data includes the data of the conventional channel and the data of the robust channel.

46. (new) The method of claim 43, wherein the monitoring includes monitoring extent of packet corruption.

47. (new) The method of claim 34, wherein the conventional channel is a first portion of a transmission channel and the robust channel is a second portion of the transmission channel.

48. (new) The method of claim 47, wherein the descriptor includes multiple sets of buffer parameters, and wherein the multiple sets address transmission with different degrees of robustness to transmission errors such that rate for the conventional channel and rate for the robust channel vary from set to set at a given fixed rate for the transmission channel.

49. (new) The method of claim 47, wherein rate for the transmission channel exceeds rate for the conventional channel plus rate for the robust channel by an amount that varies depending on transmission robustness.

50. (new) The method of claim 34, wherein the relatively higher level of robustness of the data of the robust channel is in terms of increased redundancy through channel coding techniques for the data of the robust channel.

51. (new) The method of claim 34, wherein the relatively higher level of robustness of the data of the robust channel is in terms of increased use of cyclical redundancy codes or convolutional block codes within the data of the robust channel.

52. (new) A computer-readable medium storing computer-executable instructions for causing the receiver programmed thereby to perform the method of claim 34.

53. (new) The receiver of claim 39, wherein the means for deciding includes means for monitoring reception characteristics and statistics for use in the deciding.

54. (new) The receiver of claim 53, wherein the monitoring includes monitoring symbol rate for the conventional channel and symbol rate for the robust channel.

55. (new) The receiver of claim 53, wherein the monitoring includes monitoring one or more of signal-to-noise ratio, carrier-to-noise ratio, average signal energy, and peak signal

energy of the transmitted data, and wherein the transmitted data includes the data of the conventional channel and the data of the robust channel.

56. (new) The receiver of claim 53, wherein the monitoring includes monitoring extent of packet corruption.

57. (new) The receiver of claim 39, wherein the conventional channel is a first portion of a transmission channel and the robust channel is a second portion of the transmission channel.

58. (new) The receiver of claim 57, wherein the descriptor includes multiple sets of buffer parameters, and wherein the multiple sets address transmission with different degrees of robustness to transmission errors such that rate for the conventional channel and rate for the robust channel vary from set to set at a given fixed rate for the transmission channel.

59. (new) The receiver of claim 57, wherein rate for the transmission channel exceeds rate for the conventional channel plus rate for the robust channel by an amount that varies depending on transmission robustness.

60. (new) The receiver of claim 39, wherein the relatively higher level of robustness of the data of the robust channel is in terms of increased redundancy through channel coding techniques for the data of the robust channel.

61. (new) The receiver of claim 39, wherein the relatively higher level of robustness of the data of the robust channel is in terms of increased use of cyclical redundancy codes or convolutional block codes within the data of the robust channel.

62. (new) In a receiver, a method comprising:
obtaining information for multiple buffer models;
in the receiver, selecting between a conventional channel and a robust channel, wherein relative to data of the conventional channel, data of the robust channel have a higher level of robustness to transmissions errors;

based at least in part upon rate of the data of the selected channel, identifying in the receiver a buffer size parameter from among multiple buffer size parameters of the multiple buffer models;

configuring a buffer in the receiver according to the identified buffer size parameter; and
in the buffer, buffering the data from the selected channel.

63. (new) The method of claim 62, wherein the selecting is based at least in part upon monitoring symbol rate for the conventional channel and symbol rate for the robust channel.

64. (new) The method of claim 62, wherein the selecting is based at least in part upon monitoring one or more of signal-to-noise ratio, carrier-to-noise ratio, average signal energy, and peak signal energy of a transmitted signal including the data of the conventional channel and the data of the robust channel.

65. (new) The method of claim 62, wherein the selecting is based at least in part upon monitoring of extent packet corruption.

66. (new) The method of claim 62, wherein the multiple buffer models are applicable to both the conventional channel and the robust channel.

67. (new) The method of claim 62, wherein the data includes packets for a video stream.

68. (new) The method of claim 62, wherein the identifying the buffer size parameter includes selecting the buffer size parameter from one of the multiple buffer models.

69. (new) The method of claim 62, wherein the identifying the buffer size parameter includes interpolating between plural buffer size parameters of plural of the multiple buffer models.

70. (new) The method of claim 62, wherein the conventional channel is a first portion of a transmission channel and the robust channel is a second portion of the transmission channel.

71. (new) The method of claim 70, wherein the multiple buffer models address transmission with different degrees of robustness to transmission errors such that rate for the conventional channel and rate for the robust channel vary from buffer model to buffer model at a given fixed rate for the transmission channel.

72. (new) The method of claim 70, wherein rate for the transmission channel exceeds rate for the conventional channel plus rate for the robust channel by an amount that varies depending on transmission robustness.

73. (new) The method of claim 72, further comprising:
based at least in part upon updated rate of the data for the selected channel, identifying in the receiver a new buffer size parameter from among the multiple buffer size parameters of the multiple buffer models;
reconfiguring the buffer in the receiver according to the new buffer size parameter.

74. (new) The method of claim 62, wherein the relatively higher level of robustness of the data of the robust channel is in terms of increased redundancy through channel coding techniques for the data of the robust channel.

75. (new) The method of claim 62, wherein the relatively higher level of robustness of the data of the robust channel is in terms of increased use of cyclical redundancy codes or convolutional block codes within the data of the robust channel.

76. (new) A computer-readable medium storing computer-executable instructions for causing the receiver programmed thereby to perform the method of claim 62.